



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Supports Energy Efficiency and Renewable Legislation

MADISON – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) testified before a legislative committee today in support of key energy legislation that will help lower Wisconsin's dependence on fossil fuels.

The PSC said that the legislation would lead to more energy efficiency in the state and use of sustainable, renewable energy sources, like power from wind, biomass and solar. These efforts will help cushion Wisconsin ratepayers from the impacts we have seen from the volatile deregulated natural gas market on heating and electric bills over the past six months.

A report issued last fall showed that Wisconsin could save enough electricity through conservation to defer construction of one power plant every five years and to replace enough natural gas to heat as many as 65,000 homes each year.

In addition, reducing the amount of energy used and moving to more renewables will lower impacts on the environment. If the legislation passes, Wisconsin, by 2015, could be generating enough electricity from renewable sources to supply the needs of 850,000 homes and avoiding over 5.5 million tons of greenhouse gases.

The Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Information Technology heard testimony today on Senate Bill 459, where the PSC testified in support of the bill. The legislation calls for utilities to produce at least 10% of the electricity they sell from renewable energy sources by 2015. The proposal also restructures the Public Benefits program, a state program that provides energy efficiency programs to Wisconsin consumers.

The legislation is based on recommendations made by Governor Doyle's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewables. The PSC commended Committee Chairs Senator Rob Cowles and Representative Phil Montgomery for moving the legislation and encouraged the Legislature to pass this key piece of energy legislation before the end of the legislative session.

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